

RTS-HK-AD285J

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

SITUATION ROOM

70 NOV 26 PM 7:00

F41-
Original on
copy of cab
in Haig's
material;
other diss
made.

Dictated to
Haig to do
1630 Thu
11/26

TOP SECRET 262266Z NOV 73 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY
VIA CAR CHANNELS
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER
CITE: WHS7767
DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS

THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ABOUT FEASIBILITY OF OUR OFFERING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL NORTH VIETNAMESE POWS HELD IN SOUTH VIETNAM IN RETURN FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL U.S. PRISONERS HELD IN NORTH VIETNAM. HE RECOGNIZES THAT THIS PARTICULAR FORMULATION COULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR THIEU AND GVN BUT BELIEVES PROPAGANDA VALUE OF SUCH A PROPOSAL COULD HAVE BENEFICIAL IMPACT AS:

- A) CONTINUATION OF FAVORABLE MOMENTUM ON POW ISSUE;
- B) DEMONSTRATION OF GVN GENEROSITY IN BEHALF OF U.S. POWS; AND
- C) IF REJECTED, AS IT PROBABLY WOULD BE, COULD SERVE AS AS FURTHER MANIFESTATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE INTRANSIGENCE ON POW ISSUE.

THIS PROPOSAL WAS MENTIONED BY VICE PRESIDENT KY TO PRESIDENT DURING THEIR BREAKFAST MEETING ON NOVEMBER 24. KY SUGGESTED THIEU MIGHT REACT FAVORABLY.

PRESIDENT WISHES YOU TO DISCUSS PROPOSAL EXCLUSIVELY WITH THIEU AND PROVIDE RESPONSE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE VIA THIS CHANNEL. IF THIEU'S RESPONSE AND YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT FAVOR PROPOSAL, I WILL FORMALLY PROCESS THROUGH REGULAR CHANNELS WITH VIEW TOWARDS EARLIEST IMPLEMENTATION. IN THE INTERIM EXISTENCE OF THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE RESTRICTED EXCLUSIVELY TO YOU AND PRESIDENT THIEU.

WARMEST REGARDS.
BHICII STNAJOLGYPRVEL

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

YES ONLY

Ky suggested Thieu might react favorably.

President wishes you to discuss proposal exclusively with Thieu and provide response as soon as practicable